

Maynard Finance Committee
November 22, 2021
7:03PM – 8:46 PM
Meeting hosted virtually over Zoom

Present from Committee:

Alannah Gustavson, Jillian Prendergast, Ken Estabrook, Elliot Bruce, Peter Campbell, Katie Moore

Present, not Committee:

Anthony Stowers, Bill Nemser, Christopher Arsenault, David Gavin, Lynda Thayer, Brad Schultz, Natasha Rivera

Alannah called the meeting to order at 7:03PM and started with the usual rollcall. We jumped right into a discussion with Chief Stowers who was here to discuss the FY23 budget.

- The new station is bigger, but more energy efficient than the old fire station. They are also heating the temporary structure that houses a firetruck. He expects that energy costs will be about the same. They expect to move into the new station by September 1 of next year. Chief Stowers is most looking forward to having a fitness area, a training area, and more space on the apparatus floor.
- There has been an increase in EMS, fire and service calls. There have been more medical calls than ever before. When COVID hit, their calls stopped, and they saw a huge decrease until May 2021 and now call rates are off the charts. They are looking at 30% more calls this year than last year, which was busier than 2019. That is due to some of the new structures in town plus general aging.
- Chief Stowers wants to add a full time Deputy Fire Chief to bring total FTE staff to 22.5. They will offset some of the increased cost by cutting the admin position to ½ FTE. The new Deputy Fire Chief will help with staffing, training, and succession planning. We have a young force due to a lot of turnover the past 8 years. There is plenty of work to be done, especially with inspections, and the young force could use more training.
- The temporary structure will be given to the DPW.

Next up we spoke to Chris Arsenault and Bill Nemser to hear about the planning board's recent discussions. They reviewed with us their FY22 goals of which there are many. They are quite involved with researching and discussing the various projects and initiatives around town. Similar to our call two weeks ago, there was again a focus on integrating with other committees and being forward thinking. Collaboration is clearly a priority, and they sound very interested in and committed to this.

Next we did a once over on last meeting's minutes and with two minor adjustments Ken made a motion to accept the November 8 minutes as written, seconded by Katie, approved 6-0 by rollcall.

Updates from the chair: 2 Powder Mill voted to allow Oopa Inc. (a cannabis delivery service) to discuss a host community agreement.

The tri-board meeting will be November 30 at 7PM over Zoom. Our next FinCom meeting will be on the 13th of December. We will speak with CapCom and Police Chief Noble. We believe we will have the school committee on January 10th and then the 24th of January will involve budget discussions.

Jill motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Katie, approved 6-0 by rollcall. Alannah closed the meeting at 8:46PM.

Documents & Exhibits

Slides from Chief Stowers

Planning board PowerPoint – FY22 goals

Reserve Fund Balance

\$101,052.29